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**From:** Rotola, Joe [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=143D2623F7E340EF9BF6F7855A7120CF-ROTOLA, JOE]  
**Sent:** 12/17/2018 4:54:51 PM  
**To:** LaLone, Christopher (DEC) [christopher.lalone@dec.ny.gov]  
**Subject:** Re: One hour sampling results

Will do.

Sent from my iPad

On Dec 17, 2018, at 11:48 AM, LaLone, Christopher (DEC) <[christopher.lalone@dec.ny.gov](mailto:christopher.lalone@dec.ny.gov)> wrote:

Ok, thanks Joe. I'll pencil in the call time. If you could send the invite to Chad Staniszewski ([chad.staniszewski@dec.ny.gov](mailto:chad.staniszewski@dec.ny.gov)) also I would appreciate it.

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**From:** Rotola, Joe [<mailto:Rotola.Joe@epa.gov>]  
**Sent:** Monday, December 17, 2018 10:59 AM  
**To:** LaLone, Christopher (DEC) <[christopher.lalone@dec.ny.gov](mailto:christopher.lalone@dec.ny.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: One hour sampling results

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Thanks Chris. We'll be posting our air data on our website sometime this week.

Also just heard back from the town of Tonawanda and it looks like the Supervisor is available at 11 am on Wednesday. I'll send an invite tomorrow.

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 17, 2018, at 10:54 AM, LaLone, Christopher (DEC) <[christopher.lalone@dec.ny.gov](mailto:christopher.lalone@dec.ny.gov)> wrote:

Joe, here is the release.

**DEC ANNOUNCES RESULTS OF AIR MONITORING FOR  
TONAWANDA COKE NEIGHBORHOOD, FINDS  
SHUTDOWN CORRESPONDS TO DROP IN BENZENE**

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Basil Seggos today released DEC's analysis of air monitoring data for benzene and air samples collected by community residents from the neighborhood around the former Tonawanda Coke Corporation. The monitoring data show an immediate drop in benzene following the shutdown of this facility in October 2018. Overall, DEC's assessment of the data found no chemical concentrations that would be of concern for short- and long-term exposures and no public health concern for either short- or long-term exposure.

DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos said, "For too long, Tonawanda Coke has been a blight on this community, and its owners will be held accountable for any damage to this community and the environment. In response to concerns raised by local residents, DEC assessed neighborhood air quality by analyzing monitoring data and samples. We found that air quality distinctly improved after the shutdown of Tonawanda Coke and that benzene, a toxic air pollutant, dropped precipitously. DEC and our partners at U.S. EPA are a constant, on-site presence at this site to ensure public safety and a comprehensive investigation of the site is being launched to identify any contamination at the site, and develop a cleanup plan through a transparent, public process that ensures community input at every step."

DEC has operated two monitors in the neighborhood since 2007. One monitor, located on Grand Island Boulevard, is 1,500 feet northeast of the facility and near interstates 190 and 290 and other industrial facilities. The second monitor is located in a residential neighborhood on Brookside Terrace West, 8,000 feet northeast of the facility. Earlier this year, in response to concerns about operations at Tonawanda Coke, DEC supplemented the Grand Island Boulevard toxics monitor with real-time benzene monitoring. Although benzene levels at Grand Island Boulevard were higher than recent years for much of 2018, the shutdown of Tonawanda Coke in October corresponded with an immediate drop in benzene at that location. In addition, samples taken by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) during the period leading up to the plant closure did not detect levels of significance. For additional information, visit the [DEC website](#).

In addition, DEC provided air sampling equipment to community residents engaged with DEC since the Tonawanda Community Air Quality Study, which DEC launched in 2007 to evaluate air quality in Tonawanda and emissions from Tonawanda Coke. In 2009, the study documented high levels of benzene released from Tonawanda Coke's operation, which can be an indicator of certain improper operations at the facility. As a result, DEC required the facility to make repairs and operational modifications to address the releases of this pollutant. The facility worked to reduce benzene concentrations after DEC's study and the area measurements for benzene had been reduced by 89 percent prior to the shutdown of the Tonawanda Coke Facility.

DEC and EPA are currently on-site to stabilize and comprehensively assess environmental conditions and investigate any contamination at the site. DEC will continue to provide information and regular updates to the public on the progress of the cleanup. At this time, due to legal restrictions, only authorized personnel designated for facility closure operations are permitted on the premises.

On Dec 17, 2018, at 10:46 AM, LaLone, Christopher (DEC)  
<[christopher.lalone@dec.ny.gov](mailto:christopher.lalone@dec.ny.gov)> wrote:

Joe, it sounds like we just did a press release on our air data.

Chris

On Dec 14, 2018, at 1:43 PM, LaLone, Christopher (DEC)  
<[christopher.lalone@dec.ny.gov](mailto:christopher.lalone@dec.ny.gov)> wrote:

Hi Joe,

I hear that we may do a press release and put data on our website on Monday the 17<sup>th</sup>.

At the moment it looks like I am free for most of the 19<sup>th</sup> so hopefully I can call in. Thanks for the update, it is appreciated.

Enjoy your weekend as well.

Chris

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**From:** Rotola, Joe [<mailto:Rotola.Joe@epa.gov>]  
**Sent:** Friday, December 14, 2018 1:16 PM  
**To:** LaLone, Christopher (DEC)  
<[christopher.lalone@dec.ny.gov](mailto:christopher.lalone@dec.ny.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: One hour sampling results

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Hi Chris,

It looks like we will post the results of our air surveillance activities sometime next week. I'll keep you posted. I'm also waiting to hear back from Supervisor Emminger (Town of Tonawanda) about scheduling a conference call during the morning of 12/19. Once confirmed, I'll send you an invite along with a call in #.

Have a nice weekend.

Joe

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**From:** LaLone, Christopher (DEC)

[<christopher.lalone@dec.ny.gov>](mailto:christopher.lalone@dec.ny.gov)

**Sent:** Wednesday, December 12, 2018 4:48 PM

**To:** Rotola, Joe [<Rotola.Joe@epa.gov>](mailto:Rotola.Joe@epa.gov)

**Subject:** FW: One hour sampling results

Hello Joe,

This is a fact sheet we just sent to Jessica Castner at UB to provide her the results of two canister samples she took back in August. The cans were supplied by DEC as part of our Community Air Sampling initiative. My understanding is this isn't being posted on the website but obviously will be shared around the community rather quickly.

At the moment it looks like we may post a fact sheet with our GI Blvd and Brookside Terrace data, on our website, by the end of the week but I will have a better idea on that tomorrow.

If you have any questions let me know. Thanks.

Chris